

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing aldehydes and alcohols comprising, comprising:

subjecting olefins having 6-20 carbon atoms to a rhodium-catalyzed hydroformylation at an initial concentration of rhodium, at a pressure in the range of 150 to 270 bar with subsequent separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction into the hydroformylation products and a rhodium-containing solution and recirculation of this solution to the hydroformylation reaction,

wherein the rhodium concentration of the recirculated rhodium-containing solution is 20-150 ppm by mass

distilling the output from the hydroformylation, whereby hydroformylation products and a rhodium-containing solution are separated from said output, while setting the rhodium concentration of the rhodium-containing solution to 20-150 ppm by mass, and recirculating said rhodium-containing solution, whereby the concentration of rhodium in the recirculated rhodium-containing solution is adjusted to an initial concentration of rhodium.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises the reaction products of the hydroformylation reaction as solvent and the recirculated rhodium concentration is set by means of the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises an inert solvent as solvent and the recirculated

rhodium concentration is set by means of the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises the high boilers, aldehydes and alcohols formed in the hydroformylation reaction as solvent and the recirculated rhodium concentration is set by means of the proportion of aldehydes and alcohols via the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises the aldehydes and alcohols formed in the hydroformylation reaction and an inert solvent as solvents and the recirculated rhodium concentration is set by means of the proportion of aldehydes and alcohols via the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, wherein 2,2,4-trimethylpentane-1,3-diol monoisobutyrate, dioctyl phthalate or diisononyl phthalate is used as inert solvent.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise phosphite ligands.

Claim 8 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise tris (2,4-di-t-butylphenyl) phosphite as ligand.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises the high boilers, aldehydes and alcohols formed in the hydroformylation reaction as solvent and the recirculated rhodium concentration is set by means of the proportion of aldehydes and alcohols via the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises the aldehydes and alcohols formed in the hydroformylation reaction and an inert solvent as solvents and the recirculated rhodium concentration is set by means of the proportion of aldehydes and alcohols via the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the rhodium-containing solution comprises the aldehydes and alcohols formed in the hydroformylation reaction and an inert solvent as solvents and the recirculated rhodium concentration is set by means of the proportion of aldehydes and alcohols via the separation by distillation of the output from the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim [[2]] 10, wherein 2,2,4-trimethylpentane-1,3-diol-monoisobutyrate, dioctyl phthalate or diisononyl phthalate is used as inert solvent.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim [[3]] 11, wherein 2,2,4-trimethylpentane-1,3-diol-monoisobutyrate, dioctyl phthalate or diisononyl phthalate is used as the inert solvent.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise phosphite ligands.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise phosphite ligands.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise phosphite ligands.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise phosphite ligands.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the rhodium catalysts comprise phosphite ligands.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium concentration of the recirculated rhodium-containing solution is 20-100 ppm by mass.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rhodium concentration of the recirculated rhodium-containing solution is 20-50 ppm by mass.

Claim 23 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroformylation is carried out at a pressure in the range of 150 to 270 bar.

Claim 24 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein recirculation of the solution to the hydroformylation reaction is carried out without subjecting said solution to an oxidation.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by deleting the pressure range limitation and otherwise rewriting it to more clearly set forth the invention. Claim 1 is now deemed to be of the same scope as original Claim 1. While the term “initial concentration” does not appear in the specification, it is inherently described therein, and is now recited for purposes of distinguishing the concentration of rhodium during the rhodium-catalyzed hydroformylation, and the rhodium concentration in the rhodium-containing solution. Claims 2-5 and 9-11 have been amended by inserting the term --recirculated-- before “rhodium concentration” to remove any question about which rhodium concentration is being set, as recited in these claims.

Claims 6, 12 and 13 have been amended to depend on a claim, respectively, that provides antecedent basis. Claims 14 and 20 have been canceled.

New Claims 23 and 24 have been added. Claim 23 includes subject matter deleted by the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1. Claim 24 recites that the rhodium-containing solution is recirculated without subjecting it to an oxidation, as inferentially supported in the specification at page 2, line 16 through page 3, line 2, which describes disadvantages of certain prior art, such as EP 0272608 (Miyazawa et al) and other prior art, which require such an oxidation.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-13, 15-19 and 21-24 are now pending in the application.